

Marlin Hunter's Pocket Guide



Stand up and be counted.

Today, the American Hunter has come under more critical opposition than ever before. Your participation to retain this great sport has never been more necessary. One of the positive steps you can take is to support or join a local fish and game association, and become active in community affairs which affect your sport. Now is the time to stand up and be counted!

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Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety

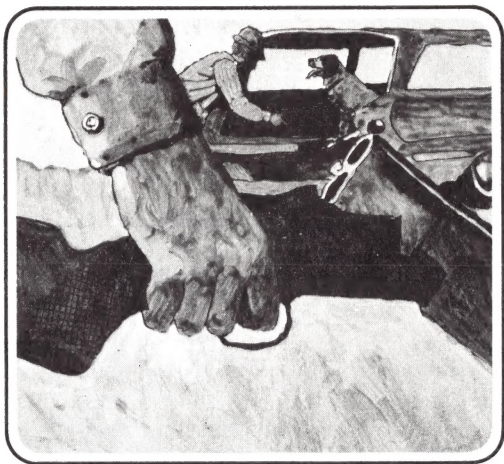
A good hunter is a safe hunter. He knows there is no place for horseplay in hunting. He learns and obeys the commandments of firearms safety and insists that his companions know and follow them, too.

Every hunter — whether novice or experienced outdoorsman — should review these commandments before each hunting season to be sure that his gun handling, both at home and in the field, sets a good example for others.



- 1.** Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.
- 2.** Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
- 3.** Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstruction.

- 4.** Never point your gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
- 5.** Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.
- 6.** Avoid alcoholic beverages both before and during shooting.



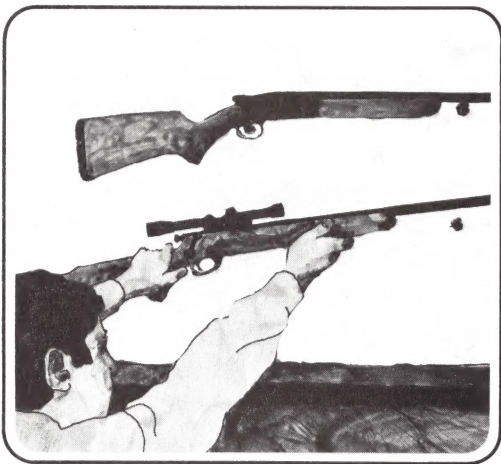


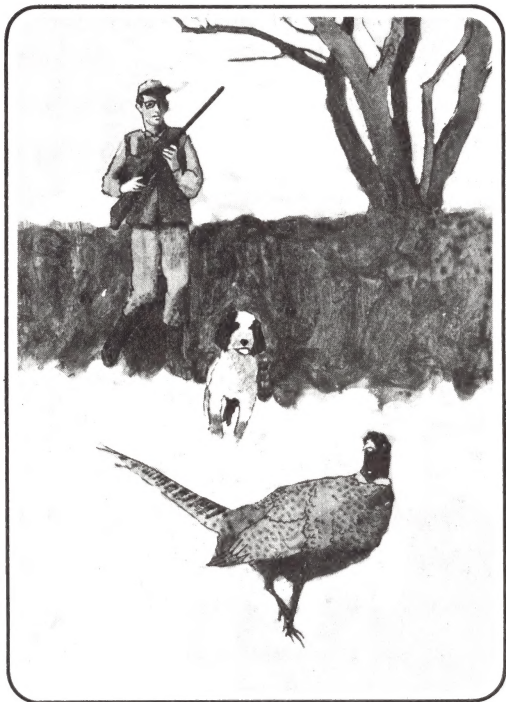
7. Never climb a tree or cross a fence with a loaded gun.

8. Never shoot at a hard, flat surface or the surface of water. Make sure you have a safe backstop.

9. Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your camp, car or home.

10. Store guns and ammunition separately, beyond the reach of children.





Hunting Ethics

Hunting has two kinds of law.

One is the written law that is enforced by the game warden. The other is unwritten. It is an ethical code or code of honor that the true sportsman places on himself.

Most hunters obey the game laws, but that alone isn't enough. Without ethics, a man can be a licensed, law-abiding hunter and still be a poor sportsman.

There is nothing illegal about shooting at a running deer over 600 yards away or trying to down a duck winging 100 yards high. But it is certainly unethical, and only a poor sportsman would try it.

The ethical hunter knows both the limits of his gun and of his shooting ability and always tries for a clean kill.

In addition to the game laws, the ethical

sportsman obeys **all** laws when hunting. He acts as a goodwill ambassador for his sport and for all other hunters.

He knows that the town whose road signs are used for target practice quickly removes the welcome mat for hunters. And that the farmer whose property or livestock are abused will post his land and forbid further hunting.

A real sportsman does all he can to grow in hunting skills. If he is not a crack shot, he works hard at his shooting and gets all the practice he can. He learns about the game he hunts and how it lives. He studies the game range in which he hunts.

In other words, he has **respect** for his quarry and hunts it only in fair and sporting ways. As an ethical hunter, a **real** hunter, he believes in "fair chase," and he never takes unfair advantage of the game he hunts. This principle of fair chase is often part of the law. For instance, it is

unlawful to shoot deer under jacklights or to hunt from an airplane.

On the other hand, it may not be against the law to shoot a pheasant on the ground or a duck swimming in the water but the ethical sportsman will never do it.

A man who takes pride in his hunting and in himself as a hunter always hunts in such a way that neither he nor the game he hunts is ever shamed. He treats his quarry with respect, both before and after he shoots it.

That is why the ethical birdhunter — if he can possibly afford and keep one — uses a trained bird dog. He has the dog not just to find birds but to recover them after they are downed.

The big game hunter also makes every possible effort to avoid wounding game, and if he does, he stops further hunting and combs the countryside to find it. He will even abandon his own hunting to help another hunter find wounded game.



A real trophy hunter may make a long and costly hunting trip and never fire a shot. His opportunities for legally taking game may have been many, but the ethical trophy hunter exercises strong and selective restraint. His code demands that he shoot only a fully mature specimen, and he knows that the removal from the herd of such an animal, almost always a bull or buck beyond breeding age, benefits others of the species in the area.

The ethical hunter never takes more than his limit. But more important still, he never takes more game than he can use.

His game is cleaned quickly and skillfully, and he brings it to the kitchen in prime condition. It is never wasted, and he takes real pride in this because it is a sure sign of his skill and knowledge. It also shows that respect for game is part of his self-respect as a seasoned hunter.

There are two main kinds of people in the world, the givers and the takers. The

ethical hunter is a giver. The unethical hunter — the poacher, the man who breaks game laws and sets no standard for his conduct as a hunter — is a taker.

It is the ethical hunter who gives a friend the advantage for getting a good shot and who likes the odds in his hunting slanted in favor of the game he pursues. He takes pleasure in sharing the game he has taken with the man on whose land he has hunted.

And it is the ethical hunter who is most apt to give generously of his time and outdoor knowledge to introduce a youngster to the enjoyment of the hunting experience.

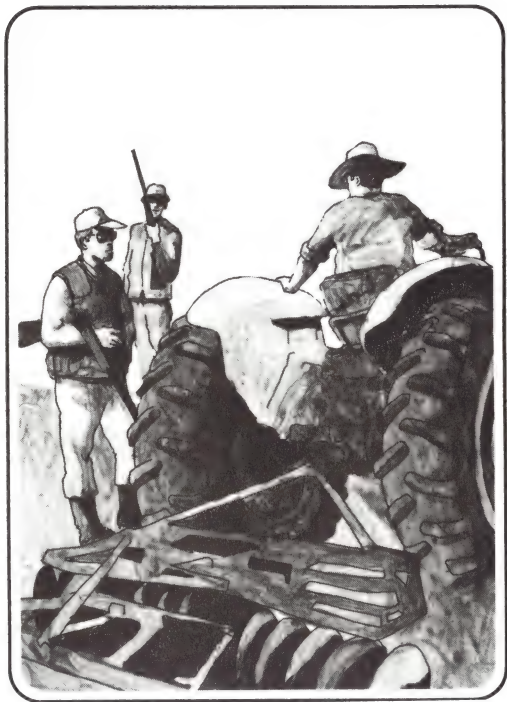
The unethical hunter, the taker, never gives his companions an even break. He is the claimer who brags about his success when he fills his limit and makes excuses if he does not. He will hunt private property without permission and show no respect for the land on which he trespasses. His concern is never for **how** he hunts, only for **how much** game he can shoot.

Abusing the hospitality of landowners and rousing the anger of the public, the unethical hunter risks not only his own chances for hunting but those of all other hunters and of future generations as well. He is one of the greatest enemies of hunting today, posing a threat to the sport equal to that of any anti-hunting movement.

While even the ethical hunter may never enjoy the full approval of the non-hunting public, the public may at least tolerate him. And as public awareness of the hunter's significant role in conservation increases, anti-hunting sentiment may recede.

But the public will no longer tolerate the unethical hunter, and as long as he is allowed to remain on the scene, ethical sportsmen will suffer by association.

Conservation laws and hunting ethics are two sides of the same coin. Do away with either, and we will do away with hunting.



Hunter-Landowner Relations

Precious few hunters are lucky enough personally to own land that abounds with game. So, for the most part, when today's hunter enters the field, he becomes someone's guest, welcome or unwelcome. His host may be an individual farmer living just down the road or a giant timber company whose offices are a thousand miles away.

But no matter who the host is, the "welcome" aspect is important to hunters because it helps determine how much land will remain open for hunting.

Sportsmen have suffered a harsh blow as suburbs, shopping centers and highways have spilled over millions of acres of once prime hunting ground. But an even greater tragedy has been the posting of "No Hunting" signs on still productive game lands throughout the country.

These signs go up only when hunters fail to recognize that they are guests, abuse the land upon which they hunt and, in doing so, wear out their welcome.

There are three separate approaches which you, as a hunter, can take to cope with this problem. One is preventive, the second is protective, and the third is corrective.

The **preventive** approach involves nothing more than doing your best not to harm the welcome you now have to hunt on someone else's property. On farmland especially, this means to ask permission every time you hunt.

Even the farmer who says, "You can hunt here any time," appreciates your dropping by beforehand to say hello and to let him know you will be on his land.

Remember, too, that the farmer who has given you permission to hunt usually does not mind if you bring a friend or two along. But you may destroy your welcome if you arrive with a carload of companions.

Once on a farmer's land, be sure to hunt only where he wants you to, keep safely away from his house, barns and livestock and respect his crops. Be careful never to stretch or break any fences you cross and latch farm gates securely after you have passed through them.

On municipal, state or federally owned land, the preventive approach means respecting the fields, forests and facilities that are there for **all** of the public — not just hunters — to enjoy. And on land owned by large corporations such as lumber and paper companies, open to multiple use through their cooperation and generosity, it means being doubly careful with fire and respecting the trees which are **their** crop.

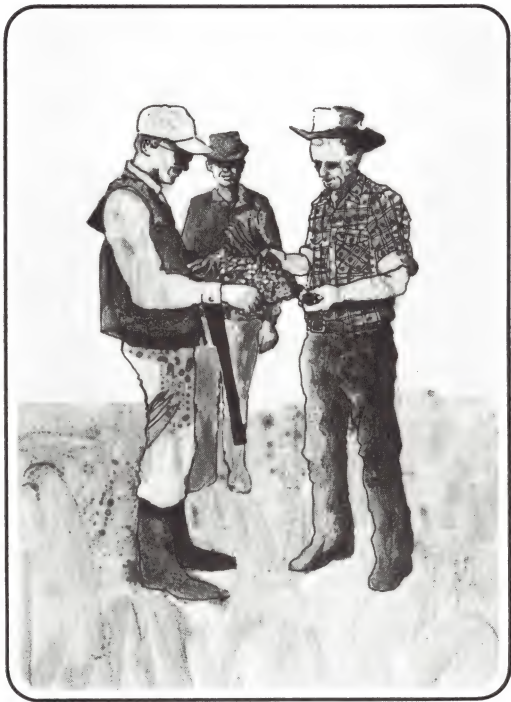
The most difficult aspect of the preventive approach calls for the law-abiding hunter who respects private property to report those hunters who damage it to the land-owner, to the game warden or local law

enforcement official. No man enjoys such a task, but a lot of the future of hunting is up to the sportsman who hunts by the rules, working to bar from hunting the poacher and the selfish individual who abuses his “guest” privileges.

The **protective** approach means making sure that the landowner knows you appreciate his letting you hunt. It means sharing your game with him, sending him a Christmas card and now and then taking time from your hunting to help him out with his chores.

The last approach, the **corrective** one, can be the most difficult because it involves changing a landowner’s mind. When you find a good hunting area that is posted, look up the owner, ask him for permission to hunt and promise him you will treat his property as you treat your own.

Such sincerity may well open the gate for both you and your fellow hunters.



Conservation Facts

Every man who likes to hunt and hopes to hunt in years ahead should be aware that his sport is in danger. It is threatened by large, organized numbers of the public who may be well-meaning but are sadly uninformed or misinformed about the hunter's relationship to conservation.

Concerned outdoorsmen who would like to insure a safe future for hunting can take positive action now. They can arm themselves with true conservation facts and pass them along to as many non-hunters and anti-hunters as possible.

Here they are:

Contrary to posing any threat to wildlife, hunters have done — and are doing right now — more to aid and protect wildlife

than any other group in the country. If it were not for hunters, many game species would probably have disappeared years ago.

Hunters were the first to demand an end to commercial market hunting. They were the first to work for regulated hunting seasons and bag limits to insure healthy and continuing game populations. In most instances, hunters today harvest only surplus game to prevent winter starvation and disease which result from overcrowded game habitat.

If more of the public realized that hunting is a vital part of successful, scientific game management, much anti-hunting sentiment would subside. However, if hunters themselves fail to carry that message, no one else will, and the future of hunting will suffer.

The public is largely ignorant of the fact that hunters have contributed — and are still contributing — more money for con-

servation than any other group in the country.

In less than 50 years, they have provided a massive **\$3.9 billion** for conservation and for wildlife development. Every concerned hunter should know how this money has been raised and make sure he tells other people about it. Here's how:

License Fees

As a hunter, you are contributing to conservation every time you buy a hunting license. Your license fees, along with those of other hunters, go to support state game departments which are responsible for the well-being of **all** wildlife. It is your hunting license money which is spent to improve wildlife habitat and game management, to finance conservation education and to enforce conservation laws.

In explaining this to people who oppose hunting, it should be emphasized that hundreds of types of birds and animals other

than game species benefit from hunters' license fees. In other words, hunters are paying the bills not just for themselves but for **everyone**.

Hunters' license fees are currently providing state game departments with over **\$185 million** a year for conservation, and going back as far as 1923 in some states, hunting license revenue has raised **\$2.7 billion** for conservation.

Excise Taxes

Every time you buy ammunition or a new gun, you are contributing still more money for conservation. When the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 was passed with strong hunter support, it specified that an 11 per cent excise tax on sporting arms and on ammunition was to be spent for conservation. The money, which is prorated to the states, enables them to set aside and improve millions of acres for wildlife.

You and other hunters are now contributing

nearly **\$64 million** a year for conservation through such taxes which, since 1937, have raised over **\$932 million**.

Federal Duck Stamps

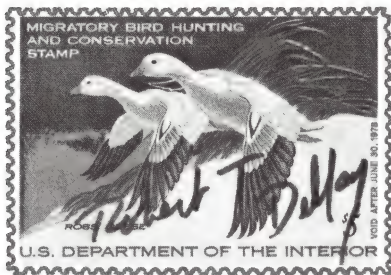
Hunters contribute again to conservation through their purchase of federal duck stamps. The money you pay for a duck stamp is used to buy or lease wetlands for waterfowl and for waterfowl production. These programs benefit not only ducks and geese but also the many other types of birds and animals that dwell in our marshlands and coastal areas.

Hunters presently contribute almost **\$11 million** a year through their duck stamp purchases, and duck stamp revenue has provided **\$197 million** in total for waterfowl conservation since 1934.

People who oppose hunting usually have no idea that the hunter's contributions to conservation benefit the entire public. The millions of acres developed and maintained

by hunters' money provide year-round recreational areas for everyone to use and enjoy. People who look forward to leisure time spent camping, hiking or simply sight-seeing rarely realize that hunters have footed the bill for much of the land they use.

Every hunter owes it to himself, his fellow hunters and to tomorrow's outdoorsmen to tell these facts to as many people as he can.



Federal duck stamp

Hints For Hunters



Basic Sighting In

To zero a hunting rifle, pick a safe backstop like a range, abandoned quarry or sandbank, shoot prone over a padded log or pile of boards. From 25 yards with hunting ammunition shoot and adjust sights until the points of aim and impact are the same. Always move your rear sight in the direction you want the impact or bullet holes to move. With a scope, follow the arrows. Now go back to 100 yards. Also from rest, firing shots in pairs, shoot and adjust until the shot group is 3 inches high for a medium high velocity rifle like a .30-06, 1½ inches above aim for a low velocity type like a .30-30. You now have your rifle targeted for adequately sure hitting without holding over or under

throughout the range of sure bullet expansion.



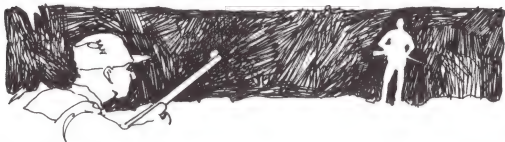
Patterning a Shotgun

One of the best steps a shotgunner can take toward assuring hunting success is to pattern his gun with the various loads he intends to use in the field or blind. It's not hard, and it really pays off.

The pattern percentage of a shotgun is the number of pellets it puts in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards divided by the number of pellets in the charge. If 70%, it is designated full choke; if 60%, modified; if 50%, improved cylinder.

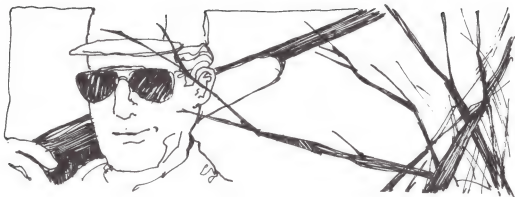
To determine the percentage your gun delivers, tack up a large sheet of paper at 40 yards. Fire at it and swing a circle of 15-inch radius around the greatest concentration of holes. Count the holes on or

inside the circle. Then count the number of shot in the type of shell you used and divide it into the number of holes to obtain your percentage. Repeat the firing for at least five samples to obtain a reliable average percentage.



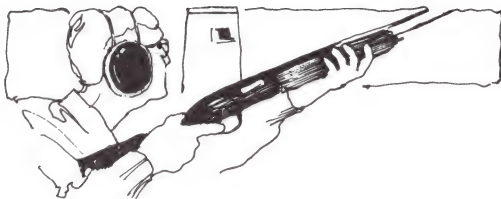
Hunter Orange

That's the name of the intense, fluorescent orange color seen on a lot of hunting clothes nowadays. There's a good reason for it. Hunter orange is more easily spotted than any other color in the field, particularly in the dim light before dawn and near sunset. States that have made hunter orange mandatory for wear in the field report sharp reductions in hunting accidents, so wise hunters are wearing hunter orange hats and vests even when not required to.



Shooting Glasses

Smart gunners know that good, impact-resistant shooting glasses are an absolute safety requirement whether on the range or in the field. They also know that on sunny days green or gray lenses will keep their eyes fresh and untired by glare, helping them get on target faster, while yellow glasses which brighten up the landscape will sharpen their shooting in dim or fading light. They know too that by wearing shooting glasses they avoid the risk of being painfully “twigged” in the eye while hunting in brushy cover so they never go afield without them.



Hearing Protection

Hearing guards are not too practical for most hunting, but the man who likes to sharpen his skills on the target range should never be without them. Heavy, repeated exposure to the sound of shotguns, center fire rifles or handguns causes permanent hearing damage which may not be discovered until it's too late. Whether muff type, plug, valve or custom molded insert, every target shooter can find a kind of hearing guard he'll find comfortable and easy to wear.

Special for Wingshooters

Having a new shotgun is only part of it. There's got to be a place where you can introduce that scattergun to some real wingshooting.

This is where a good daily-fee hunting preserve comes into the fall picture. Such areas are open to the public and offer pen-reared game birds that are released in tailor-made cover. And if variety is the spice of life, a good hunting preserve surely offers a well-seasoned autumn. For variety of action there's nothing like it. How about a big, clattering ring-necked pheasant, or a roaring covey of bobwhite quail? You'll find them all on most shooting preserves, with prime bird cover and savvy bird dogs.

A good hunting preserve really comes into its own with new shooters, for it can put

youngsters into more action in one day than they might have in a month on ordinary farmland. For the seasoned sportsman, a good hunting preserve offers prime sport for months after the regular seasons have ended.

Prices are more reasonable than you might think. Some hunting preserves charge for birds bagged, others for birds released, and some of the best ones simply sell a sporting chance to harvest birds. There's a hunt for every taste and pocketbook and it is not all that expensive — especially when you consider the time, effort and gasoline you may save. If you go out of state, a hunting preserve license for non-resident hunters may cost only a fraction of a full non-resident license.

Where are these places? A full directory of public, daily-fee hunting preserves is available from NSSF. Just send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NSSF, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, CT 06878.



Free Marlin Catalog.

Be sure and see the entire Marlin Sporting Firearms line at your local gun dealer. Pick up your new free catalog or write Marlin Firearms Company, North Haven, Connecticut 06473.

**Made now as
they were then.**



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